

MALAYSIA DAY: MANIFESTING GRATITUDE & DEFENDING FREEDOM



I would like to remind myself and my blessed audience to strive in increasing our taqwa of Allah by obeying and fulfilling all of His

Commands, and avoiding all of His prohibitions. Indeed, we are all the slaves of Allah, created solely for the servitude and worship unto Him Alone.

With the recent commemoration of Malaysia Day, the khutbah today invites all of us in: "Manifesting Gratitude And Defending Freedom."

The well-being and independence of a nation is from among the bounties that Allah has bestowed upon mankind. It is not just blissfulness that is to be enjoyed, but it behooves us

to manifest our gratefulness and true servitude to Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala. All these bounties must be pondered upon and thanked for especially at a time in celebrating the anniversary

of the formation of Malaysia
51 years ago.

The 16th of September every year marks the anniversary for the birth of Malaysia. It united the Malay Peninsula with Sabah and Sarawak.

With that, our homeland became larger, with greater population. The ethnicities further became diverse. From then onwards, the citizens of this land are comprised of the Malays,

Chinese, Indians, Kadazans, Ibans, Dayaks, Orang Asal (indigenous), Baba Nyonas, Bajaus, Muruts, Siamese, and many more. This is all by the will of Allah and not the choice of mankind.

What could be determined by human in their lives is their deeds and taqwa, also their akhlaaq and behavior. Hence, Allah would only judge mankind based upon those very criteria.

They can strive to further improve themselves. Mankind will not be judged based upon their race and lineage, for they were not given the option to choose them.

Abu Nadrah radiy Allaahu 'anh reported: I heard the sermon of Rasulullah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) during the middle of the day. The Prophet صلى الله) said:

"O people, your Lord is one and your father Adam

is one. There is no virtue of an Arab over a foreigner nor a foreigner over an Arab, and neither white over black nor black over white, except through righteousness..." (Ahmad and al-Bayhaqi: saheeh)

This is the tagwa and gratefulness that should be imbued within us. That is to look at fellow human being as part of a greater family originating from Adam 'alayhissalaam.

Having certainty that the status of individuals are judged based upon their taqwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala. Such attitude and mentality will lead mankind to live amongst themselves

with peace and harmony. There is no guarantee that the bounty of peace and harmony will forever remain if we do not safeguard our attitude and behavior. Let us ponder upon the

verses of al-Qur'an: "That is because Allah would not change a favor which He had bestowed upon a people until they change what iswithin themselves.



The freedom and harmony endured in Malaysia is truly one of the great bounties that Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala had bestowed upon us. The peacefulness and unity of the citizens

must be safeguarded by comprehending the teachings of Islam regarding interracial relations. We must avoid from becoming the instigator for conflicts between any groups of people by kindling

racial hatred. Let us not belittle others due to their race or lineage. Islam teaches us to remain open in accepting others as is, for Islam was sent as mercy for all and the Worlds.

Truthfully, the one that instigate us to play with ethnicity or racial sentiment is the shaytaan. Shaytaan wants us to fight amongst ourselves because of the ethnicity factor, something

that was already predetermined. Hence, it taught mankind how a particular race is superior above others. Shaytaan is mankind's number one enemy, so as Muslims we must always

distance ourselves from the traits and evil whispers of *shaytaan*.

Indeed, the call to Islam is to be shared and conveyed to the entire mankind regardless of race and

lineage. From Rasulullah (صلى الله)'s early days of conveying the message, there were already a diverse group that had accepted the message. There was Bilal bin Rabah, an African from

Abyssinia. There was Suhayb ar-Roomi, a Roman or European. There was Salman al-Faarisi, a Persian or Iranian. Then there was 'Abdullah bin Salam and his friends whom were all from

Jewish background. Though, many of the Companions were from Arab descent, radiyAllaahu 'anhum ajma'een. This is the reality of the society and first Islamic state that was

established by Rasulullah صلى الله على الله). Hence, what is more important is for all citizens to unite in defending the sovereignty, harmony, and order of life as it was stipulated in the Madeenah

Charter.

It was Islam's openness that had facilitated in the spread of Islam and easily accepted by various ethnicities around the world after the Prophet's time.

The Companions never erected a racial barrier that prevents mankind from accepting Islam, whether they accept Islam as a complete religion or as a system of life within the

state only. That is the Islam that becomes the mercy for all. As conclusions from today's khutbah: 1- Let us eradicate racism and obsession with a

particular group that are still embedded within us.

2- We should always get

acquainted with different ethnicities in this world, as a creation originating from the same family and father,

which is Adam 'alayhissalaam. 3- We should include all race and people as our target in calling towards faith and humanity. We truly hope that all races can live in peace

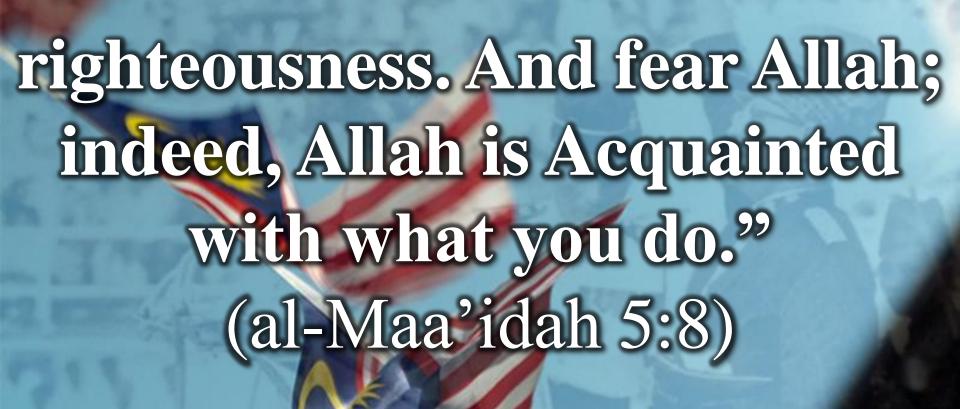
and having the freedom to obey Lord Almighty. 4- All citizens of various ethnicity are entitled to the foundation of justice, which is a right bestowed upon all mankind. Let us ponder upon

the example of 'Umar ibn al-Khattaab radiy Allaahu 'anh in implementing such justice. 5- Let us take lessons from the events or seerah of Rasulullah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) in the

establishment of the Islamic state in Madeenah, which was just to everyone, even to the enemies or the oppressors.

6- Let us not punish and respond excessively causing others to hate Islam. 7- As Malaysians, we must remain united in protecting the independence of Malaysia.

"O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm for Allah, witnesses in justice, and do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is nearer to



بَارَكَ اللهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الأَيَاتِ وَالذَّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنكُمْ تِلاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيْمُ أَقُولُ قُولِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغُورُ اللهَ الْعَظِيْمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَ الْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتَ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيْمُ

O Allah, You are the Almighty Lord, we are grateful unto You for having bestowed upon us Mercy and Blessings, nourishing us to strive to continue in strengthening the Muslim nation especially the state of Selangor, as an advanced, progressive, peaceful, and benevolent state.

We beseech and beg You, Ya Allah, to strengthen our imaan, increase our good deeds, strengthen our unity, increase our provision, enrich us with beneficial knowledge, nourish our soul with beautiful akhlaaq, guide us to the Path that is Pleasing to You,

protect us from Your severe tribulations such as the long drought, severe flooding, disease outbreak, violence and instability, poverty, and others, so that our land will become more peaceful and blessed.

Oh Allah, we ask You to open up the hearts of the Muslim ummah especially in Selangor, to fulfill their zakaat obligation as You had decreed in al-Qur'an. Bless the lives of those who have fulfilled their zakaat obligation, loving and caring for the poor and needy.

Purify their wealth and soul so that they will live according to that which pleases You. Protect the poor and needy from disbelief and everlasting poverty. Allaahummaa ameen





DI SEDIAKAN OLEH:
BAHAGIAN KHUTBAH,
JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR

ILLUSTRASI OLEH:
UNIT TEKNOLOGI MAKLUMAT,
JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR